

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 MCT-01
SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 /096 W
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P R 271114Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9984
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SP
SUBJECT: MAY 1 LABOR DAY PLANS

1. FOLLOWING A SERIES OF MEETINGS DURING THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS WITH SYNDICAL RELATIONS MINISTER ENRIQUE DE LA MATA, THE TRADE UNIONS HAVE BEEN AUTHORIZED TO HOLD "MASSIVE MEETINGS" THROUGHOUT SPAIN IN COMMEMORATION OF MAY 1 LABOR DAY. HOWEVER, THESE MEETINGS A) MUST BE HELD IN "ENCLOSED LOCATIONS" (SUCH AS SOCCER STADIUMS, BULLRINGS, ETC), AND B) THE UNIONS MUST GUARANTEE THE MAINTENANCE OF ORDER, USING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEIR OWN CROWD MARSHALLS.

2. IN MADRID, THE UNIONS HAD ORIGINALLY REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ORGANIZE A UNIFIED LABOR DAY PARADE TYPE OF STREET MANIFESTATION, BUT THIS WAS DENIED BY THE CIVIL GOVERNOR AS BEING TO PRONE TO PRODUCE INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE. IN MADRID, THE PARTICIPATING UNIONS ARE THE SOCIALIST UGT, THE COMMUNIST-

DOMINATED WORKERS' COMMISSIONS (SWC), AND THE CHRISTIAN SOCIALIST USO. THE ANARCHO-SYNDICAL CNT OBJECTED TO THE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED, AND ANNOUNCED APRIL 26 THAT IT WOULD HOLD SEPARATE LABOR DAY MEETINGS. MAJOR LABOR DAY DEMONSTRATIONS ARE ALSO PLANNED FOR THE INDUSTRIAL CENTERS OF BARCELONA AND BILBAO, BUT THEIR FORM AND UNION MAKEUP REMAINS UNCLEAR AT THIS WRITING.

3. UGT SECGEN NICOLAS REDONDO TOLD LABATT APRIL 26 THAT THEY DISLIKED THE IDEA OF A MASS MEETING (PROBABLY IN ONE OF MADRID'S SOCCER STADIUMS HOLDING 100,000 OR SO), WHICH HE BELIEVED WAS MORE LIKELY TO PRODUCE INCIDENTS THAN A STRUNG OUT STREET PARADE. FURTHERMORE, UNLIKE THE STREET PARADE WHICH HAS CALLED FOR PLACARDS BUT NO SPEECHES, THE STADIUM MEETING WOULD ALLOW EACH OF THE THREE PARTICIPATING UNIONS TO SELECT TWO SPEAKERS TO ADDRESS THE CROWD. REDONDO WAS CONVINCED THAT THE SWC, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD LIKELY INJECT POLITICS INTO THE OCCASION. ONE OF THEIR SPEAKERS WOULD SURELY BE SWC LEADER MARCELINO CAMACHO WHO OCCUPIED THE NUMBER-TWO SLOT ON THE PCE (SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY) ELECTORAL LIST IN MADRID. FINALLY, REDONDO COMMENTED, THE GOVT'S DENIAL OF A LABOR DAY PARADE WAS HARDLY IN KEEPING WITH THE TRADE UNION FREEDOM ATMOSPHERE SYMBOLIZED BY SPAIN'S RECENT RATIFICATION OF ILO CONVENTIONS 87 AND 98 (MADRID 3121).
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